

# NATURA 2000

## STANDARD DATA FORM

FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPA)  
FOR SITES ELIGIBLE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS SITES OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE (SCI)  
AND  
FOR SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SAC)

### 1. Site identification:

1.1 Type  1.2 Site code

1.3 Compilation date  1.4 Update

#### 1.5 Relationship with other Natura 2000 sites

U	K	0	0	1	3	0	2	7
U	K	0	0	1	9	8	3	3

1.6 Respondent(s)

1.7 Site name

#### 1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates

date site proposed as eligible as SCI	
date confirmed as SCI	
date site classified as SPA	199803
date site designated as SAC	

### 2. Site location:

#### 2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
03 15 24 W	54 10 39 N

2.2 Site area (ha)  2.3 Site length (km)

#### 2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK12	Cumbria	100.00%

#### 2.6 Biogeographic region

Alpine

Atlantic

Boreal

Continental

Macaronesia

Mediterranean

### 3. Ecological information:

#### 3.1 Annex I habitats

Habitat types present on the site and the site assessment for them:

Annex I habitat	% cover	Representativity	Relative surface	Conservation status	Global assessment

### 3.2 Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex I

Code	Species name	Population			Site assessment			
		Resident	Migratory		Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
Breed	Winter	Stage						
A054	<i>Anas acuta</i>		1636 I		B		C	
A143	<i>Calidris canutus</i>		4495 I		C		C	
A191	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	210 P			C		C	
A162	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		2289 I		C		C	

## 4. Site description:

### 4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	82.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	8.0
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	8.0
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	
Coniferous woodland	
Evergreen woodland	
Mixed woodland	
Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including orchards, groves, vineyards, dehesas)	
Inland rocks. Scree. Sands. Permanent snow and ice	
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	2.0
<b>Total habitat cover</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 4.1 Other site characteristics

#### Soil & geology:

Acidic, Alluvium, Basic, Limestone, Metamorphic, Mud, Sand, Sandstone/mudstone, Shingle, Slate/shale

#### Geomorphology & landscape:

Coastal, Estuary, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Lagoon, Lowland, Open coast (including bay)

### 4.2 Quality and importance

#### ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

##### During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> (Western Europe/Western Africa)	1.5% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean, 1988-1992
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#### ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

##### Over winter the area regularly supports:

<i>Anas acuta</i> (North-western Europe)	2.7% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Calidris canutus</i> (North-eastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/North-western Europe)	1.3% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	0.9% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<b>ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS</b>	
<b>Over winter the area regularly supports:</b>	
31505 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 01/10/1998)	
Including:	
<i>Anas acuta</i> , <i>Calidris canutus</i> , <i>Tringa totanus</i> .	

### 4.3 Vulnerability

The Duddon Estuary is a diverse estuarine system dependent on the physical processes that dominate the natural system: consequently the vulnerability of habitats is linked to changes in the physical environment. The intertidal zone is being threatened by coastal squeeze as a result of land claim and coastal defence works as well as sea level rise and storm surges. Many of the saltmarshes are grazed by agricultural stock, sometimes at a high level. These issues are being addressed through the Shoreline Management Plan and more locally, Site Management Statements/Positive Management Schemes.

Waterfowl wintering on estuaries are vulnerable to loss of feeding areas through disturbance, land claim and development. The Duddon Estuary partnership is addressing some of the threats arising from recreational pressure and bait digging. Feasibility studies are being carried out for a bridge across the estuary, any such proposals will be subject to assessment under the Habitats Regulations, 1994. There are various developments for housing, amenity and industry adjacent to the site, however to date there has been no significant effect on the nature conservation interest of the estuary.

## 5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

### 5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK01 (NNR)	9.0
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0